

file copy

TO: R & A Personnel Working on JANIS

FROM: W. L. LANGER

Subject: Official expressions of opinion on value of JANIS.

The Projects Committee and the OSS member of JICPB have put together the following statements concerning JANIS volumes, excerpted from communications sent us through official channels. I am glad to have this opportunity to endorse personally these expressions of approval of our work and request that copies be shown to all personnel, professional, administrative or clerical, who have participated in this excellent achievement.

1. From Rear Admiral Forrest P. Sherman, Deputy Chief of Staff to CINCPAC: 19 December 1944:

"I think you can justifiably be proud of the JANIS publications. They are much admired out here and have proved very useful. Of course I have not had the opportunity to examine all of them in detail, but I can pass on to you the opinions of others, whose sense of judgment I value.

"I am glad to see that recent JANIS publications have been reaching us at a relatively earlier date than was true of the first copies. This is true in particular of JANIS 76 and subsequent volumes. The first JANIS publications to reach this theatre were criticised because of their tardy appearance. However, now you seem to be sufficiently far ahead in your schedule to put an end to such criticisms.

"You ask if JANIS 154 arrived here soon enough for planning and operational use. We would have like to have had it much earlier for planning purposes. But we still were able to make good use of it. As an illustration of its usefulness, one of the JANIS maps, showing landing beaches on Leyte Island, was reproduced here in the preliminary intelligence provided for that operation. It was possible to do so here because sometime previously you had forwarded to us the film positives of the map and its information overlay.

"The JANIS, as you admit yourself, is not designed for operational use or tactical planning, so much as for basic planning. It is not surprising therefore that many people concerned immediately with operations find that it is too

bulky and too general to be of much value to them. They want, instead, special materials, pointed directly at their particular problems. This is one way of saying that the JANIS seems to be less popular on shipboard than it is with our shore-based planners and intelligence organizations. For the latter, however, it has become an indispensable basic reference work. From what they tell me, the JANIS is far superior to monographic works hitherto available. This is both because it is more complete and because it is more carefully prepared than its predecessors in the monograph field."

2. From Colonel C. J. Billo, Chief of the Strategy Section, OPD (through Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, WDGS); 23 December 1944:

"The comparatively new Joint Army-Navy Intelligence Studies have proven of great value to this section. They present reference information for preliminary strategic studies in a concise and well-indexed form. This memorandum is sent to the Board as an expression of the usefulness of your publications to this section."

3. Wrapper indorsement on the above by Major General Clayton Bissell, A.C. of S., G-2, signed by Brigadier General John Weckerling, Deputy A.C. of S., G-2; 2 January 1945:

"The attached memorandum speaks well for the high degree of excellence which you have achieved in the preparation and publication of Joint Army Navy Intelligence Studies."

"The entire staff of the Joint Intelligence Study Publishing Board is to be commended for its efforts in preparing such important intelligence material."

4. From the Secretary, Joint War Plans Committee, 30 Nov 1944:

"The Joint War Plans Committee has received Chapters II to VII, inclusive, and Chapter XIII, of JANIS 76. It is noted that these chapters were completed and delivered more than a month prior to the previously established target date."

"The Joint War Plans Committee appreciates the efforts in the completion of this work so far in advance of the target date, and requests that members of the Topographical Subcommittee and their working personnel be advised to this effect."

5. Memorandum for Admiral Thebaud, General Bissell, General Hodges, and General Magruder from Captain C. G. Moore, Chairman of the Joint Topographical Subcommittee:

Subcommittee, with the full concurrence of his committee colleagues, wishes to invite the attention of the members of the Joint Intelligence Committee to the fact that the JANIS schedule for production, despite many difficulties (including editing and such physical factors as printing and distribution), has been met with few unimportant exceptions. In addition, priorities have been conformed to, including some rather substantial changes in schedule occasioned by the exigencies and vicissitudes of the war's progress, and in many instances deadlines have been anticipated.

"There has been abundant evidence, both official and unofficial, from the Pacific Ocean Areas that testifies to the valuable contribution made by the JANIS products to the prosecution of the war throughout the Pacific. It would be impossible to cite the individual contributions that have been made to the JANIS publications. Text has been written and re-written throughout all echelons of the Intelligence Services of the Navy, the Army, the Office of Strategic Services and contributory intelligence organizations....."

WILLIAM L. LANGER
Chief, Research and
Analysis Branch

cc: Dr. Hartshorne